



State of Wisconsin

## Department of Health and Family Services

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Jim Doyle, Governor

Karen E. Timberlake, Secretary

Thursday, June 26, 2008

For Immediate Release

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### WASHINGTON COUNTY ENTERS INTO FAMILY CARE

Secretary Karen Timberlake today announced the launch of Family Care in Washington County. It is anticipated that Family Care will serve hundreds of seniors and people with disabilities in the area by providing more choices and improved access to health and long-term care services.

"Family Care has proven our seniors and people with disabilities can get the long-term care they need, while living in their home or community," said Secretary Timberlake. "Family Care keeps people healthy and independent, while saving money. We are pleased to have the Community Care as a partner in this program."

Secretary Timberlake was joined in West Bend by Community Care's Chief Operating Officer Paul F. Soczynski, community leaders, advocates and service providers to celebrate the occasion.

"Community Care is proud to partner with Washington County providing extraordinary service through the Family Care program," said Paul F. Soczynski. "This is a positive step forward to ensuring that frail seniors, adults with developmental disabilities and adults with physical disabilities get access to quality services when they need them and don't sit on a waitlist for years."

Community Care is managing Family Care in Racine, Kenosha, Ozaukee, Sheboygan, and now Washington County. Washington County residents have been able to enroll in Family Care since April 1, 2008, with anticipation of more than 530 Family Care members in the community by the end of the year.

Family Care allows seniors and people with disabilities the choice to receive long-term care services in their own homes and communities. Family Care provides eligible seniors and people with disabilities with long-term care, using Medicaid dollars flexibly and not just earmarking dollars for nursing home care. While Wisconsin has been a national leader in offering community-based alternatives to nursing home care, about 11,500 people are on waitlists for community care statewide.

Family Care currently operates in 14 counties around the state. In an independent assessment of four counties, Family Care saved an average of \$452 per person, per month in total Medical Assistance expenditures. The program will expand to at least 25 additional counties by early 2009.

For more information about Family Care in Washington County, call toll-free 1-877-306-3030 or visit the ADRC at 333 E. Washington St, West Bend. Or for more information about Family Care in general, go to <http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/LTCare/>

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